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# American Literature I

LaToya Watkins Dr.  
*Collin College*

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**Dr. LaToya Watkins**  
**American Literature I**

<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
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**Course Number:** ENGL 2327

**Course Title:** American Literature I: Colonial Period to the Civil War

**Course Description:** A survey of American literature from the period of exploration and settlement through the Civil War. Students will study works of prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical and cultural contexts. Texts will be selected from among a diverse group of authors for what they reflect and reveal about the evolving American experience and character.

**Course Credit Hours:**

Lecture Hours: 3

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 1302 or ENGL 2311

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- State-mandated Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
  1. Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions.
  2. Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.
  3. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.
  4. Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
  5. Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature.
- Additional Collin Outcome: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:
  1. Demonstrate personal responsibility through the ethical use of intellectual property.

**[Note: The reading, thinking, testing, and writing assignments in this course are designed to help you meet the learning outcomes listed above.]**

**Repeating Courses Policy:** Beginning Fall 2016, Texas residents attempting a course more than twice at Collin College are subject to regular tuition plus an additional \$50 per semester credit hour. Please see the “Repeating Courses” section of the Fall 2016 Registration Guide for more information.

**Withdrawal Policy:** See the current *Collin Registration Guide* for the last day to withdraw.

**Collin College Academic Policies:** See the current *Collin Student Handbook*

- **The College District may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty.**
- Scholastic dishonesty may involve, but is not limited to, one or more of the following acts: cheating, **plagiarism**, collusion, use of annotated texts or teacher’s editions, use of information about exams

posted on the Internet or electronic medium, and/or falsifying academic records.

- **Collin faculty are required to report alleged violations of scholastic dishonesty** to the Dean of Student Development, who then investigates the case, and renders an administrative decision.
- **Faculty are not allowed to assign a grade to the work in question** until the Dean of Student Development renders a decision
- **Students found responsible for scholastic dishonesty offenses will receive an authorized disciplinary penalty from the office of the Dean of Student Development.**
- **Additionally, students found responsible for scholastic dishonesty will be assigned a penalty in this class that ranges from a grade of “F” on the assignment to a grade of “F” for the course**

#### **Americans with Disabilities Act:**

Collin College will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the ACCESS office, SCC-G200 or 972.881.5898 (V/TTD: 972.881.5950) to arrange for appropriate accommodations. See the current *Collin Student Handbook* for additional information.

**Religious Holy Days:** Please refer to the current *Collin Student Handbook*.

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor's Name:** LaToya Watkins

**Office Number:** BB113

**Office Hours:** Monday (online): 6-8 PM; Tuesday & Thursday: 10:45AM-12:45 PM.

**Phone Number:** 972-881-5729

**Email:** LWatkins@collin.edu

#### **Class Information:**

**Section Number:** WS1

**Meeting Times:** N/A

**Meeting Location:** *virtual*

**Course Resources:** Computer and Internet access for completing all coursework (in the event that your computer crashes, campus computer labs are available).

#### **Supplies:**

#### **Required:**

*Baines, John, et. al. The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, 9th edition, PKG.1 (Vols. A & B) “Beginnings to 1865” ISBN: 978-0-393-26454-8 (two paperback volumes)

#### **Recommended:**

*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition.

Note: Books are available through the on campus Barnes and Noble Book Store, where Amazon and other competitor prices will be matched.

**Method of Evaluation:** All work will be submitted through, and graded in, Canvas. Graded papers and feedback will be returned on Canvas. All feedback will be included in the notes section of SpeedGrader and the actual document. All assignments will be graded within 14 days of submission.

#### **Additional Course Policies:**

- Any suspected acts of plagiarism in this class will result in a grade of 0 on the paper. Students involved in

either cheating or plagiarism will be referred to the Dean of Students and formally charged. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Students need to be aware of the consequences, both short-term and long-term, of collusion, cheating, and/or plagiarism before they begin the course.

- All papers must be original and written for the purposes of this course. Recycled papers will be considered acts of plagiarism.

### **Consequences for Academic Dishonesty and/or Plagiarism:**

Any student in this English class found guilty of cheating on an examination or of Plagiarism will receive one or more of the following penalties:

- The grade of zero **(0)** on that particular assignment.
- A course grade of **F** (depending on the severity of the student's dishonesty or plagiarism).

### **Assignment Types**

- **Discussion Board Posts: 20%:** This is where much of your interaction with your fellow classmates takes place. You are expected to respond to discussion board posts as they are listed and dated in the course schedule. Your discussion board posts should be thoughtful and make good use of textual evidence, meaning use quotes or exact examples from the text to respond to each question.
- **Exams: 20%:** Mid-Term and Final each count 10%
- **Quizzes: 20%:** Ten online reading quizzes will be given throughout the semester. You can miss two and still receive full credit for the quizzes portion of this course. However, if you complete all quizzes, you could have an extra 50 points of extra credit built into the class. Follow the course schedule for dates.
- **Response papers: 20%:** Using the supplied response paper topics, write a one -page typed response. There are four of these responses throughout the semester. The grade will be based on the thoughtfulness of the response. I will not accept any late responses.

Response papers are graded for content not form, so you don't need a formal organization. I will not grade off for grammar on these, unless the grammatical errors prevent my understanding of the paper. Length should be one to one and a half pages. Response papers with the grade of 85-90 will have quotations as well as a good response to the question; 75, good response but no quotations; 70, skimpy responses that are off the mark.

**Support:** for response papers and essays, it's important to remember that you have to back-up every assertion -- every point you make -- with quotations. And the quotations must support the thesis -- or main idea. Choosing the right quotations is important. Not just any quotation will do. Quotations are your proof; otherwise, all you are writing is an opinion. The essays and response papers should be analytical, not plot summary. Please read the samples below:

- **Research Essay: 20%:** 1 essay, typed, at least 2500 words long. Correct grammar and formal organization are required. See essay example for organization. See essay example for organization. Each essay must have at least two scholarly sources from college data bases or library books. MLA style with a Works Cited page.

### **Obtaining secondary sources:**

[Library online databases](#): click here and this will take you to page entitled Online Collections Click on the tab at top, "Articles," then scroll to find a list of databases: Academic Search Complete,

JSTOR, or Project Muse.

Do not use the Internet for your sources.

**Primary sources:** the text; that is to say, the story/stories/poem/poems you are analyzing. A citation for each of these must go on the Works Cited page.

**Secondary sources:** these are scholarly articles written about the texts. A citation for each of these must go on the Works Cited page.

[Knight Cite](#): this site helps you prepare your Works Cited page. Just fill in the blanks and this machine orders correctly the bibliographic information and provides the appropriate punctuation.

[Grammar errors](#)

### **Additional Course Policies:**

**Any acts of plagiarism in this class will result in automatic failure of the plagiarized paper.**

### **Consequences for Academic Dishonesty and/or Plagiarism:**

Any student in this English class found guilty of cheating on an examination or of Plagiarism (using the definitions given for both terms in the attached document) will receive one or more of the following penalties:

- The grade of zero **(0)** on that particular assignment.
- A course grade of **F** (depending on the severity of the student's dishonesty or plagiarism).

### **Assignments & Evaluation Breakdown**

Response Papers	20%
Quizzes	20%
Mid-term Exam	10%
Final Exam	10%
Discussion Board	20%
Research Essay	20%

Note: Your grade is calculated on a 1000 point system. In other words:

### **Grade Ranges**

90-100	=A
80-89	=B
70-79	=C
60-69	=D
0-59	=F

Note: Your grade is not calculated on a point system. I use a percentage system. Please use these percentages when attempting to self-calculate your grade.

**Extra Credit:** Students who complete and submit all assignments (on time) will receive a 2.5 percent curve on their final numerical average.

### **Late Work Policy**

I have a strict **NO LATE WORK** policy. All drafts must be submitted when and as required in order to successfully complete this course. If you are uncertain as to whether or not your assignment has been received, ask. Also, communicate with me. Let me know what's going on before your assignment is late. Often we can work out a solution that equals getting your work in on time. Remember: extra credit is tied to completing all assignments. Computer issue explanations will not be accepted. This is an online course. If you are having computer issues, please visit one of our on-campus labs to ensure your work is submitted on time.

Note: If there are issues with Canvas or the problem is a Collin College network issue, please visit the [Student Help Area](#) of our class page and contact e-Collin Support.

### **Netiquette Expectations**

(1) Standards of courtesy and respect must be maintained at all times in our online "classroom" discussion, but remember that respect and consideration are crucial for any intellectual discussion.

(2) In computer discussion assignment, I expect intelligent and respectful airing of ideas. Name-calling and attacks are not permitted.

(3) Since this is an English class, and you will be practicing good writing throughout the semester, all responses should consist of standard grammar and punctuation rules. Do not use texting abbreviations or careless grammar/punctuation in emails or in discussions.

(4) Appropriate behavior as set out in the Collin Student Handbook applies to online classes, and abuses will be reported to the Dean of Students and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken by the college.

### **Delivery Method of Feedback and/or Graded Material**

Graded papers and feedback will be returned on Canvas. All feedback will be included in the actual paper in a Turnitin.com comments box. Your grade will also be available in the My Grades section of Canvas. All assignments will be graded within 14 days of submission.

### **Standards for Instructor Response and Availability**

Please use the Mail tool available on Canvas for all correspondence with me for the duration of the course. I will respond to your email within **24 hours** (usually, I respond the same day) on weekdays. On weekends, I try to check my Canvas e-mail daily, but I do not hold online office hours on the weekends and holidays, so you should plan to

# Assignment Schedule

1. All essay assignments must be submitted in Canvas:
  - on the Home Page menu, select “Course Content”
  - on the “Course Content” page, select the “Assignments” folder
  - on the “Assignments” page, select “Submit Assignments Here”
2. Essay assignments must be uploaded (in Canvas) as **Microsoft Word attachments**.
3. Carefully review and follow ALL grading criteria as outlined in the individual Assignment Instructions (assignment requirements and guidelines) as well as the “Essay grading Form” (posted under “Essay Instructions” in the “Assignments” folder)
4. Discussion post instructions and grading criteria are located at “Discussion Board” in the “Assignments” folder
5. All assignments (essays and discussion posts) must be submitted by **11:00 PM on the due date (which more of than not fall on Sunday nights)**.
6. Assignments sent via e-mail will NOT be accepted

**A note about submission of writing assignments:** if you wait until the last minute to submit your papers (10:55, 10:59. etc.) it is likely that the system will not accept it, as it does take a bit of time for your paper to load into the system. **If you miss the submission deadline, you miss it (and the allotted points).** Please manage your time carefully, and allow yourself ample time to complete the writing and submission process--**I recommend that you wait no later than 10:30PM to begin the submission process to insure there are no glitches.**

## I: Colonial Period

### Week 1 (August 27—September 2)

#### Read:

- Beginnings to 1820, Volume A, (3-25-A)
- Native American Oral Literature, Stories of the Beginning of the World, Trickster Cycle (29-46-A)
- First Encounters: Early European Account of Native America (80-82-A)

**Post** to the “Introduce Yourself” to the Week 1 discussion thread. Remember to respond to two of your fellow students’ posts. **Due on 9/2 BEFORE 11:00 PM**

**Complete** the Beginnings to 1820 quiz Week 1 module by 9/2 before 11:00 PM. **Note: This quiz can be completed as early as 8/27, but it cannot be accessed after the due date.**

### Week 2 (September 3—9)

#### Read:

- Read Columbus (58-66-A) and De Vaca, (71-79-A)
- First Encounters (80-82-A)
- The New England Pilgrims – William Bradford of Plymouth Colony (129-167-A)
- John Winthrop of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, “A Model of Christian Charity” (176-189-A)
- Early American PowerPoint in Week 2 Module

**Post** to the “Week 2: Video Response” discussion topic in Canvas. Remember to respond to two of your fellow students’ posts. **Due on 9/9 BEFORE 11:00 PM**

**Submit Response Paper #1** to the Response Paper Submission Folder by uploading it to the assignment link in the Week 2 module. **Due on 9/9 BEFORE 11:00 PM**

**A note about submission of writing assignments:** if you wait until the last minute to submit your papers (10:55, 10:59. etc.) it is likely that the system will not accept it, as it does take a bit of time for your paper to load into the system. **If you miss the submission deadline, you miss it (and the allotted points).** Please manage your time carefully, and allow yourself ample time to complete the writing and submission process--I recommend that you wait no later than 10:30PM to begin the submission process to insure there are no glitches.

### **Week 3 (September 10—16) CENSUS DAY: September 10**

#### **Read:**

- Anne Bradstreet (217-249-A)
- Mary Rowlandson (267-301-A)
- Anne Bradstreet and Mary Rowlandson PowerPoints in Week 3 module.

**Post** to the “Week 3: Colonial Women Writers” discussion topic in Canvas. Remember to respond to two of your fellow students’ posts. **Due on 9/16 BEFORE 11:00 PM**

## **II: 18<sup>th</sup> Century**



## Week 4 (September 17—23)

### Read:

- American Literature and Religious Expression (403-405-A)
- Samson Occom (585-589-A)
- Benjamin Franklin (439-442; 456-462-A)
- J. Hector St. John De Crevecoeur (634-656-A)
- John and Abigail Adams (664-680-A)

**Submit Response Paper #2** to the Response Paper Submission Folder by uploading it to the proper assignment link in the Week 4 module. **Due on 9/23 BEFORE 11:00 PM**

**A note about submission of writing assignments:** if you wait until the last minute to submit your papers (10:55, 10:59. etc.) it is likely that the system will not accept it, as it does take a bit of time for your paper to load into the system. **If you miss the submission deadline, you miss it (and the allotted points).** Please manage your time carefully, and allow yourself ample time to complete the writing and submission process--I recommend that you wait no later than 10:30PM to begin the submission process to insure there are no glitches.

## Week 5 (September 24—30)

### Read:

- Thomas Jefferson (702-704; 712-716-A)
  - Annette Gordon-Reed "When the Past Speaks to the Present" (secondary source; located in the Week 5 module)
- Olaudah Equiano (731-769-A)
- Phillis Wheatley (787-799-A)
- **Read Midterm Study Guide**

**Complete** the Olaudah Equiano quiz located in the Week 5 module by 9/30 before 11:00 PM. **Note: This quiz can be completed as early as 9/12, but it cannot be accessed after the due date.**

AND

**Complete** the Phillis Wheatley quiz located in the Week 5 module by 9/30 before 11:00 PM. **Note: This quiz can be completed as early as 9/12, but it cannot be accessed after the due date.**

AND

**Post** to the “Week 5: Jefferson and Slavery” discussion topic in Canvas. Remember to respond to two of your fellow students’ posts. **Due on 9/30 BEFORE 11:00 PM**

## **Week 6 (October 1—7)**

### **Read:**

- Royall Tyler (799-841-A)
- Begin Hannah Webster Foster (841-940-A)
- **Read Midterm Study Guide in the Week 6 module**

**Complete** the Royall Tyler quiz located in Week 6 by 10/7 before 11:00 PM. **Note: This quiz can be completed as early as 9/22, but it cannot be accessed after the due date.**

Midterm becomes available on 10/2—This exam is due next week!

## **Week 7 (October 8—14)**

### **Read:**

- Finish Hannah Webster Foster (841-940-A)

**Complete** the Hannah Webster Foster quiz located in the Week 7 module by 10/14 before 11:00 PM. **Note: This quiz can be completed as early as 9/29, but it cannot be accessed after the due date.**

**Complete** the Midterm exam. **Due on 10/14 BEFORE 11:00 PM**

## **III: 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

### **Week 8 (October 15—21) LAST DAY to WITHDRAW: Friday, October 19**

### **Read:**

- American Literature 1820-1865 (3-24) Volume B
- Washington Irving (Rip Van Winkle) 25-41-B and (The Legend of Sleep Hollow) 41-62-B

**Complete** the Period Introduction Quiz (1820-1865) quiz located in the Week 8 module by

**10/21 before 11:00 PM. Note: This quiz can be completed as early as 10/1, but it cannot be accessed after the due date.**

**Complete** the Washington Irving Quiz located in the Week 8 module by 10/21 before 11:00 PM. **Note: This quiz can be completed as early as 10/1, but it cannot be accessed after the due date.**

## **Week 9 (October 22—28)**

### **Read:**

- Nathaniel Hawthorne (328-332-B), "Young Goodman Brown: (345-354-B) "The Minister's Black Veil" (369-377-B), "The Birth-Mark" (377-388-B)
- Edgar Allen Poe (604-608-A), "Fall of the House of Usher" (629-642-B), "The Tell-Tale Heart" (666-670-B), and "The Black Cat" (670-676-B)
- **Research Essay Instructions in Week 9 module**

**Post** to the "Week 9: Hawthorne and Poe" discussion topic in Blackboard. Remember to respond to two of your fellow students' posts. **Due on 10/28 BEFORE 11:00 PM**

## **IV: Slavery and Gender**

### **Week 10 (October 29—November 4)**

#### **Read:**

- Abraham Lincoln (712-713-B) "A House Divided" (714-722-B)
- Slavery, Race, and the Making of American Literature (769-770-B)
- William Lloyd Garrison (780-81B) "To the Public" (781-83-B)
- Sojourner Truth (786-787-B)
- Fanny Fern (892-894; 894-900-B)
- **Research Essay Instructions**

**Submit** **Response Paper #3** to the Response Paper by uploading it to the proper assignment link in the Week 10 module. **Due on 11/4 BEFORE 11:00 PM**

**Begin drafting the Research Essay**

### **Week 11 (November 5—11)**

#### **Read:**

- Harriet Beecher Stowe From *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (792-891-B)

**Submit** **Response Paper #4** to the Response Paper by uploading it to the proper

assignment link in the Week 10 module. **Due on 11/11 BEFORE 11:00 PM**

Research Paper is due on 11/26 BEFORE 11:00 PM (TWO WEEKS)

## Week 12 (November 12—18)

### Read:

- Harriet Jacobs (920-921) From *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (909-932-B)
- William Wells Brown (931-932-B) From *The Narrative of the Life and Escape of William Wells Brown* (933-937-B), and From *Clotel* (937-949-B)
- Frederick Douglass (1159-1228-B) From *Narrative Life of Frederick Douglass*

**Complete** the Frederick Douglass Quiz located in the Week 12 module by 11/18 before 11:00 PM. **Note: This quiz can be completed as early as 10/20, but it cannot be accessed after the due date.**

**Post** to the “Week 12: Slavery” discussion topic in Canvas. Remember to respond to two of your fellow students’ posts. **Due on 11/18 BEFORE 11:00 PM**

Research Paper is due on 11/26 BEFORE 11:00 PM

## IV: Science and Technology in the Pre-Civil War Nation

## Week 13 (November 19—25)

### Read:

- Science and Technology in the Pre-Civil War Nation (1268-69)
- Walt Whitman (1294-1296), Preface to *Leaves of Grass* (1297-1311-B), (1312-1356-B) *Song of Myself*, "Crossing the Brooklyn Ferry" (1364-1368)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS WEEK ARE DUE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2018.**

**Post** to the “Week 13: Walt Whitman” discussion topic in Canvas. Remember to respond to two of your fellow students’ posts. **Due on 11/26 BEFORE 11:00 PM**

**Submit** the Research Paper by uploading it to the proper assignment link in the Week 13 module. **Due on 11/26 BEFORE 11:00 PM**

## Week 14 (November 26—December 2)

**Read:**

- Herman Melville (1410-1413-B) From *Bartleby, the Scrivener* (1469-1495)
- Louisa May Alcott (1725-1727-B) "My Contraband" (1727-1741)

**Complete** the Herman Melville Quiz located in the Week 14 module by 12/2 before 11:00 PM. **Note: This quiz can be completed as early as 11/3, but it cannot be accessed after the due date.**

**Post** to the “Week 14: Louisa May Alcott” discussion topic in Canvas. Remember to respond to two of your fellow students’ posts. **Due on 12/2 BEFORE 11:00 PM**

**Final Exam will be available on December 2 at 11PM.**

**Week 15 (December 3—9)**

**Submit** the final by uploading it to the proper assignment link in the Week 15 module.  
**Due on 12/9 BEFORE 11:00 PM**

**Week 16: (December 10—16)**

**Finals will be graded this week.**